

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to amend line one of the specification and to cancel claims 1-26 and to add new claims 27-40.

Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

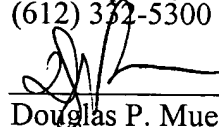
If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Douglas P. Mueller (Reg. No. 30,300), at (612) 371.5237.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903  
(612) 332-5300

Dated: April 12, 2004

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Douglas P. Mueller  
Reg. 30,300

DPM/jh

**23552**

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE